

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/077 W

----- 016039

R 090905 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CONFIDENTIAL RANGOON 0829

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BM, TH

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL GUB ATTENDANCE AT THAI ARMED FORCES DAY

RECEPTION

1. GUB ATTENDANCE AT THAI ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION GIVEN
APRIL 7 BY THAI MILITARY ATTACHE COLONEL SNIT SATYASNGUAN
WAS UNPRECEDENTLY HIGH LEVEL AND WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL SAN YU. THE THREE
SERVICE CHIEFS-- VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (ARMY) BRIGADIER TIN U,
VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (AIR) BRIGADIER THAUNG DAN AND VICE
CHIEF OF STAFF (NAVY) COMMODORE THAUNG TIN-- WERE ALSO PRESENT,
TOGETHER WITH NUMEROUS OTHER HIGH RANKING GUB MILITARY
OFFICERS. IN CONTRAST, BRIG. TIN U IS CUSTOMARILY ONLY
ONE OF ABOVE FOUR OFFICERS TO ATTEND OTHER NATIONS ARMED FORCES
DAY RECEPTIONS.

2. PRESS GAVE FRONTPAGE NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE TO THE
EVENT, A TREATMENT USUALLY GIVEN ONLY TO NATIONAL DAYS AS
DISTINCT FROM ARMED FORCES DAYS. UPI BUREAU CHIEF TOLD AMB-
ASSADOR THAT PROMINENT PRESS ATTENTION WAS RESULT OF DIRECT IN-
STRUCTIONS FROM GUB.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRIMARY REASON FOR SUCH
HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT PRESENT JUNCTURE IS GUB DESIRE TO
FURTHER GUB-- RTG RAPPROCHEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF REPORTS
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THAT PRIME MINISTER NE WIN PLANNING VISIT TO THAILAND SHORTLY
(SEPTEL). GUB MAY ALSO HAVE DESIRED TO RECIPROcate REPORTED
HIGH LEVEL THAI MILITARY RESPRESENTATION AT BURMESE ARMED FORCES
DAY RECEPTION MARCH 27 IN BANGKOK, THUS SHOWING BURMA NOT
LAGGING BEHIND THAILAND IN DISPLAYING GOODWILL.

MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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